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ABSTRACT

This publication introduces some Internet sites relevant to adult education and literacy. It begins with some definitions for the Internet. Next, it lists two guides to using the Internet. A listing of listservs includes name, brief description of literacy-related topics covered, and directions for subscribing. The listservs are as follows: National Literacy Advocacy; National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) Listservs/Forums, including NIFL-FAMILY, NIFL-LD (learning disabilities), NIFL-WORKPLACE; NIFL-ESL (English as a second language), and NIFL-HOMELESS; LITERACY: NYSERNET; LEARNER:NYSERNET; NUMERACY List; TESL-L (teaching of English as a second language); AEDNET (Adult Education Network); and VISTAnet. Next, literacy information sites on the World Wide Web are listed. Addresses and brief descriptions are provided for the following: Southern Literacy Communications Consortium; Oklahoma Literacy Resource Office Home Page; Internet Directory of Literacy and Adult Education Resources; National Institute for Literacy LINCS (Literacy Information aNd Communication System); Literacy Volunteers of America Home Page; U.S. Department of Education; Office of Vocational and Adult Education; ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education; National Parent Information Network; Adult Numeracy Practitioners Network; Project Vote Smart; OTAN (Outreach and Technical Assistance Network); California E-Mail Project Home Page; and CNN Student News Page. (YLB)

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Useful Internet Information for Oklahoma Literacy Providers

ED 405 479

The Internet provides a wealth of information for literacy providers and ever-increasing opportunities for lively discussion with your colleagues worldwide. The Oklahoma Literacy Resource Office staff has found it to be the most efficient and timely way to keep abreast of actions by Congress and the federal government. We also have found valuable discussion about teaching techniques, information about funding opportunities, and even pen pal requests.

It is often necessary to purchase Internet access through a commercial provider or "gateway" entity, such as America Online, CompuServe, Internet Oklahoma, Oklahoma Net Services, Inc., etc. If you are affiliated with an institution that already has access, that institution may be able to make Internet access available to you.

The following publication is designed to introduce some Internet sites relevant to adult education and literacy. Each listing has been explored by the Oklahoma Literacy Resource staff and found to be both current and relevant. The list is not exhaustive, but rather a selection of a few interesting sites to get you started. We have explored additional sites, which we would be happy to share with you upon request. This publication is not meant to be a handbook for using the Internet. There are several good ones available, and we have listed two on the following pages.

We've started out with a few definitions, because terms such as Web page, home page, e-mail, and listserv can be mystifying for new Internet users.

We hope you will soon be able to explore some of these Internet sites and discover the wealth of information sources that await you! If you find other sites that you think are really good, please let us know!

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

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Some Definitions for the Internet

E-mail

E-mail is short for "electronic mail." It is a method of sending a written message from your computer to the computer of any other person who has an e-mail address. To send a message to a particular person, type in his e-mail address, type your message, and send it. When the recipient accesses his e-mail, your message will be listed. Delivery time can vary, but it is possible to communicate with someone halfway around the world in minutes.

E-mail address

A string of characters or numbers that routes your e-mail message to a particular recipient. Each address has two parts. The first part identifies the user and the second indicates the computer using and storing the message. The two parts are separated by an @ symbol. Portions of the second part are separated by a dot, or period. **To type an e-mail address, replicate it exactly, including punctuation and upper/lower case of letters. Leave no spaces between characters.**

Home page or Web page

A Web page is an information site on the World Wide Web. It is somewhat similar to a magazine, with a cover and various types of information listed in its table of contents. Many organizations, agencies, and businesses have home pages. To find a certain web page, type in its Internet address.

Hypertext (hypermedia)

A term coined to describe the links embedded in a World Wide Web document that make it possible to jump from one document to another. This is accomplished by clicking the mouse on underlined text. Links are usually also a different color than the surrounding text.

The Internet

The Internet is a worldwide network of computers that connects university, government, business, and personal computers through telecommunication links.

Listserv

A listserv is an electronic mailing list that functions as a discussion group. Conversations are conducted in written form and sent by e-mail via the Internet. Everyone subscribed to the list receives the messages. Each listserv is devoted to a particular topic.

To access a listserv, you must first join, or "subscribe." This can be done via e-mail. It costs nothing. From then on, when you access your e-mail, you will be able to read all of the messages that have been sent to everyone on the list. You may also send messages for all to read.

URL

An Internet address is called a URL, which stands for Uniform Resource Locator. **To type an Internet address, replicate it exactly, including punctuation and upper/lower case letters. Leave no spaces between characters.**

World Wide Web

The World Wide Web (WWW) is a system used to organize information on the Internet. The Web links you by computer to information stored in computers around the world. Information on the WWW may be accessed by entering the specific Internet address, if you know it, or by using a search mechanism.

Special software programs called **browsers** are used to access information on the Web. Some common browser programs are Netscape, Mosaic, and Lynx. Browser capabilities vary, and you will want to consider compatibility with your computer and modem before choosing one.

Guides to Using the Internet

Book stores carry many commercial guides to the Internet. Below are two additional sources.

Demystifying the Internet and Untangling the Web

Practitioner File (P-File)
Publisher: ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education (ERIC/ACVE), 1996

This short publication is designed to introduce adult, career, and vocational educators to the Internet. A copy can be obtained by mail, FAX, or e-mail:

Judy Wagner
ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education
1900 Kenny Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1090
800-848-4815 (ext. 4-7685) FAX: 614-292-1260
e-mail: wagner.6@osu.edu

Eventually the document will be available on the Clearinghouse Web page.
Address: http://www.osu.edu/units/education/cete/ericacve/index.html

SAGRELTO's *InfoWorm: Short Course Tutorials for Internet Users*

Address: http://www.sagrelto.com/sagrelto/tutorial/home.htm
This detailed information about the Internet and the World Wide Web is available online from SAGRELTO Enterprises, Inc. The tutorial is comprised of separate files dealing with the World Wide Web, Listservs, URLs, and other subjects. All files can be accessed from the address listed above.

Listservs for Literacy

The listservs below provide discussion on various literacy-related topics. Subscribers may enter into the discussions or merely read them. Many subscribers use listservs as a source of information only and do not enter into the discussion. This is called "lurking," which is perfectly legitimate.

Subscription is done by e-mail. Directions for subscribing follow each listing. Upon subscribing, you will most likely receive a confirmation via e-mail, which will give guidelines for using the listserv and directions for withdrawing from the list, should you wish to do so. It is a good idea to save this message or print it out for future reference.

The address used for subscribing is not the same as the address used to post a message to the whole list. This is sometimes a source of confusion for users. Also, messages and replies meant for one particular person should be sent to the individual's e-mail address, not the listserv.

Some listservs provide a digest service, upon request, so those who choose may read a summary of the discussions, rather than receiving each message in a discussion.

NLA: National Literacy Advocacy

Timely information and discussion on public policy issues affecting adult literacy and education. A good source of the latest information regarding relevant Congressional actions. This list is moderated by David Rosen, who insures that all messages posted are relevant. *Comment: A very busy listserv, and a good source of information on federal and states' policies regarding literacy and adult education.*

To subscribe to the list:
Send an e-mail message to: Majordomo@world.std.com
Leave the "subject" line blank.
In the body of the message, type: subscribe nla

To send a message to everyone on the list:
Address your e-mail to: nla@world.std.com

National Institute for Literacy Listservs/Forums:

The National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) sponsors five forums/listservs in specific areas. These relatively new listservs are among the important features of the Institute's Literacy Information aNd Communication System (LINCS). The names of the listservs are listed below. Because they are relatively new, discussion has been minimal, but the moderators regularly post information helpful to the fields. To subscribe to any one of these listservs, follow these instructions, substituting the name of the specific list where indicated:

Send a message to: LISTPROC@LITERACY.NIFL.GOV
Leave the "subject" line blank.
In the body of the message, type: subscribe *name of list* your first and last name
Example: subscribe NIFL_FAMILY Mel Gibson

The forum feature of each allows users to access all messages and the weekly archives of the list, as well as those for other NIFL lists, through NIFL's LINCS home page on the World Wide Web at http://novel.nifl.gov. (See listing under Web sites.)

NIFL-FAMILY

This listserv/forum is managed by the National Center for Family Literacy in Louisville, Kentucky. Discussion will focus on family literacy in the areas of instructional practices, program design, research, and policy. *Comment: Information frequently posted by the moderator.*

NIFL-LD

This listserv, facilitated by Eve Robbins of the National Adult Literacy and Learning Disabilities Center, will facilitate targeted discussion focused on learning disabilities and their impact on the provision of literacy services. Information exchange will be in research, expertise, and resources regarding the relationship between adult literacy and learning disabilities. *Comment: Informative postings and helpful exchange of information between subscribers.*

NIFL-WORKPLACE

Will target discussion about workplace literacy issues such as marketing, instruction, curricula, assessment, evaluation, staff training, research, and policy. It is facilitated by Barbara Van Horn at the Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy at Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. *Comment: A good source of information, mostly cross-posted from other discussion groups by the moderator, with some interaction.*

NIFL-ESL

Discussion for those interested in the field of English for speakers of other languages.

NIFL-HOMELESS

This listserv is moderated by Kate Collignon at Homes for the Homeless - the largest provider of transitional housing, social services, and education and training programs to homeless families in New York City. The listserv offers service providers, policy makers, academics, and anyone interested in literacy and homelessness a forum in which to raise questions about programs and policies, share information about resources, and air new ideas.

LITERACY: NYSERNET

LITERACY is a moderated general forum intended to foster discussion by those involved in teaching adults to read and write. The sharing of ideas, tips, helpful resources, teaching tools, and personal experiences are all encouraged. The primary focus is adults whose native language is English. Specific concerns of the ESL field are considered beyond the scope of this list. *Comments: Very little active discussion was observed on this listserv during the time this office was subscribed. Perhaps an Oklahoma tutor or ABE teacher could change that!*

To subscribe to LITERACY:
Send a message to: LISTSERV@nysernet.org
Leave the "subject" line blank.
In the body of the message, type subscribe LITERACY your first and last name

LEARNER: NYSERNET

LEARNER is a moderated literacy discussion group for adult learners to practice their newly learned skills by posting messages that can be read by other new learners and posting requests for pen pals. When posting to the list for pen-pal contacts, it is best for the learner to introduce himself, his reading level, and some information about himself. *Comment: Most learners use the listserv to make contacts for pen pals. They then write to each other via private e-mail. Some tutors write to find pen pals for their students. This list has international subscribers.*

To subscribe, follow the directions for LITERACY,
substituting the list name LEARNER in the body of the message.

NUMERACY List

An electronic discussion list for sharing teaching methods, including use of manipulatives.

To subscribe:
Send a message to: majordomo@world.std.com
Leave the subject line blank.
In the body of your message, type: subscribe numeracy

TESL-L

A discussion group focusing on issues of literacy and the teaching of English as a second language. *Comment: TESL-L is a busy listserv with lively discussion between participants worldwide.*

To subscribe:
Send a message to: LISTSERV@CUNYVM.CUNY.EDU
Leave subject line blank, or make the subject: none
In the body of your message, type: subscribe TESL-L your first and last name

TESL-L contains seven specialized branches. You may elect to receive only messages for these branches. Membership in TESL-L is a prerequisite, however. Branches that may be of particular interest are:

TESLIT-L: Adult education, adult literacy programs, and legislation
TESLCA-L: Computer-assisted Language Learning
TESLJB-L: Jobs, Employment, and Working conditions in TESL/TEFL

After you subscribe to TESL-L, you may select one or more of these branches using the following process:

Send a message to: LISTSERV@CUNYVM.CUNY.EDU or
LISTSERV@CUNYVM.BITNET
Your message: SUB TESLIT-L your first and last name

AEDNET (Adult Education Network)

An international electronic network on which researchers, practitioners, and graduate students in adult and continuing education exchange information on conferences, special events, and topics and concerns. It is operated by the Adult Education Program of the Programs for Higher Education of the Abraham S. Fischler Center for the Advancement of Education at Nova University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. *Comment: This is a busy, very interactive listserv. If you like discussions centering around philosophy and theory, focusing on such areas as learning styles, the plight of the oppressed through history, etc, this listserv is for you.*

To subscribe:
Send a message to: listproc@pulsar.acast.nova.edu
Make the subject: None
In the body of the message, type: subscribe AEDNET your first and last name
Example: subscribe AEDNET Jimmy Stewart

VISTAnet

VISTAnet is a forum for current, former, and potential VISTA Volunteers and VISTA Sponsors to share insights, advice, and resources for alleviating poverty in America. Participants in other AmeriCorps national service programs and non-profit agencies are encouraged to join in the dialogue. VISTAnet links current volunteers at similar projects for networking opportunities. *Comment: This listserv seems to be a lively site touching on many subjects from Corps philosophy to new VISTA openings.*

To subscribe:
Send a message to: LISTSERV@SJUVM.stjohns.edu
Leave the subject line blank.
In the body of the message, type: SUBSCRIBE VISTANET your first and last name

You will receive a reply explaining a confirmation process you must complete. Some e-mail programs cannot successfully send confirmation using the "reply" feature. You may have to confirm in a separate message using the code number given. Call the Literacy Resource Office if you have a problem.

Literacy Information Sites on the World Wide Web

These information sites, or Web pages, are similar to a magazine, usually having a title page and a list of contents on succeeding pages. Some pages are more than one screen length long. Use the down arrow key to scroll down to the end of the page.

Links to other related sites are accessible by clicking your mouse on text that is in color (usually blue). This can take you directly to the subject or information named by the text. Should you return to the original page, the links that you have explored will have changed color to remind you that you have already visited them. They will still function as links, however. There is usually a built-in method of returning to the site from which you started, so you don't become lost in "cyberspace."

Southern Literacy Communications Consortium (SLCC)

Address: http://tlrc.tamu.edu/slcc

Visit the home pages of State Literacy Resource Centers in the thirteen states of the Southern Region. Nationally, literacy resource centers are organized into "regional hubs" for Internet access. The hub for the Oklahoma Literacy Resource Office is the Southern Literacy Communications Consortium at Texas A & M University. You can also access the other hubs from this site. Each state posts a wide range of information for you to explore. The Oklahoma Literacy Resource Office home page may also be accessed directly, as listed below.

Oklahoma Literacy Resource Office Home Page

Address: http://tlrc.tamu.edu/oklahoma

Our home page is one of the newest on the SLCC hub. The site will be expanding on an ongoing basis. At present, contents are: What's new?; Calendar of National and Oklahoma Literacy/Adult Education Events; the mission and services, history, and projects of the office, as well as links to literacy resource centers in other states.

Internet Directory of Literacy and Adult Education Resources

Address: http://www.sagrelto.com/sagrelto/elandh/home.htm

From this address, the user can access an exhaustive listing of Listservs and Web pages. For the user's convenience, the list is arranged several ways: alphabetically or by subject, accessible by clicking on the title; or in a longer version with descriptions and Internet addresses. These options may be chosen from a list on the home page, or the user may obtain direct access to each type via the following addresses:

index to listservs: same as above, but substitute /hlsrvndx.htm for /home.htm
index to World Wide Web sites: substitute /hwwwndx.htm for /home.htm
index to listings by subject: substitute /hsubjndx.htm for /home.htm
listings with descriptions and Internet addresses: substitute /halpha.htm for /home.htm

National Institute for Literacy LINCS (Literacy Information aNd Communication System)

Address: http://novel.nifl.gov

Current events and information including legislation, grant information from NIFL and the U.S. Department of Education, list of NIFL literacy forums and listservs, links to state literacy resource centers, the National Adult Literacy and Learning Disabilities Center, other literacy resources, and other Internet resources.

Literacy Volunteers of America (LVA) Home Page

Address: http://archon.educ.kent.edu/LVA

Provides access to LVA Washington Update, LVA calendar, directory of LVA affiliates, catalog of LVA publications, and the LVA updates on government actions concerning literacy.

U.S. Department of Education

Address: http://www.ed.gov

Information about the department, news and updates on legislation and budget concerns, and links to various offices, including the Office of Vocational and Adult Education. That office may also be reached directly, as listed below.

U.S.D.E. Office of Adult and Vocational Education

Address: http://www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE

Provides access to the publications clearinghouse, funding opportunities, and links to other sites. Correctional Education is included.

ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult Career and Vocational Education

Address: http://www.osu.edu/units/education/cete/ericacve/index.html

ERIC, the Educational Resources Information Center, provides information, publications, and other services to educators. This Internet site provides access to digests, research and other publications, current information, and services.

National Parent Information Network

Address: http://ericps.ed.uiuc.edu/npin/npinhome.html

A project of the ERIC system, this site contains resources for parents of children of all ages on topics such as child development, testing, working with teachers, and home activities. Included are listings of useful and inexpensive materials from other sources. PARENTS AskERIC is a question answering service that links parents with experts in a variety of fields. A forum for discussion of common concerns to parents, teachers and parent educators is also provided.

Adult Numeracy Practitioners Network

Address: http://world.std.com/~edl/

This site contains selected activity pages from the ***Math Practitioner*** - a newsletter for adult math teachers - and activities for Family Math. It also contains a digest of past e-mail discussions concerning hands-on activities for teaching fractions.

Project Vote Smart

Address: gopher.neu.edu

Type in the address and click on ***Project Vote Smart*** to access biographical information and voting records of all U.S. Congressmen and state governors. Other good information on voting is also provided. This site has timely information for tutors and teachers who wish to prepare students to vote.

OTAN - Outreach and Technical Assistance Network

Address: http://www.otan.dni.us

This site, funded by the California Department of Education, Adult Education Unit, has a variety of literacy, ESOL, and distance learning resources, interactive online lessons for adult learners, and links to national and international literacy organizations. The user may also join the "subscriber only" area, where members gain access to interactive forums on adult literacy topics, a clearinghouse of articles which can be downloaded, and other current information. *Comment: This site is well worth checking out.*

California E-Mail Project Home Page

Address: http://www.otan.dni.us/webfarm/emailproject/email.htm

The purpose of this home page is to help learners worldwide link together and produce meaningful publications. Learners and teachers may electronically submit stories, a website, or a project description for publication. Instructions for submitting are given. The site also contains connections to a wealth of related sites, and includes access to lesson plans and learning projects that invite participation.

CNN Student News Page

Address: http://www.cnnsf.com/education/education.html

This site, co-sponsored by CNN-San Francisco and the California Outreach and Technical Assistance Network, presents current news stories geared toward students who are not yet able to read and understand standard newspaper articles. Interactive learning activities help reinforce and enhance understanding. Teacher's page included.

Bibliography

Demystifying the Internet and Untangling the Web

Imel, Susan; Kerka, Sandra; and Wagner, Judy.
ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education
Practitioner File
Address: http://www.osu.edu/units/education/cete/ericacve/index.html

Internet 101: Basics for Public Librarians

Public Library Association Sixth National Conference
Presented by Gail Junion-Metz, Information Age Consultants
Address: gail@iage.com

SAGRELTO'S InfoWorm

SAGRELTO Enterprises, Inc.
Durham, N.C.
Address: http://www.sagrelto.com/sagrelto/tutorial/home.htm

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